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TITLE: AN OPTICAL COUPLING MOUNT

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Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified, enclosed patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS



Please amend Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 as rewritten below:

*a'*

3. An optical bench according to claim 1, in which the spot size converter comprises a pair of waveguides, at least one of which is dimensioned so as to cause light preferentially to couple from one waveguide to the other as light propagates along the length of the waveguide.

4. An optical bench according to claim 1, in which the spot size converter comprises an upper waveguide having a reducing lateral taper along at least part of its length, vertically spaced a distance above a